IN THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended): A method of using a delegated connection table, comprising:

    initializing an entry in the delegated connection table with connection state corresponding to a connection selected by a <u>transmission control protocol (TCP)</u> stack for processing by an offload unit;

    updating the entry when a first frame is received for the connection;

    <u>parsing the first frame to extract TCP payload data;</u>

    <u>uploading the TCP payload data to a memory;</u> and

    reading the entry when a second frame is transmitted for the connection.

2. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1, further comprising updating the entry <u>by copying a portion of the second frame into a portion of the entry in the delegated connection table</u> when the second frame is transmitted.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1, further comprising uploading payload data to a location specified in the entry within a memory space <u>of the memory that is</u> allocated to an application program.

5. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1, further comprising notifying the TCP stack when the <u>TCP payload data of the</u> first frame received is uploaded by the offload unit to at least one legacy buffer.

6. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1, <u>wherein the TCP payload data of the first frame is uploaded</u> ~~further comprising uploading the first frame~~ to a legacy buffer <u>that is</u>

in a portion of the memory that is allocated to a driver configured to interface between the offload unit and an application program.

7. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving a third wherein another frame received that does not correspond to another entry in the delegated connection table; and

uploading the third frame to a legacy buffer that is in a portion of the memory that is allocated to a driver configured to interface between the offload unit and an application program.

8. (Original): The method of claim 6, wherein a sequence number in the first frame does not correspond to a sequence number stored in the delegated connection table.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended): The method of claim [[9]]1, further comprising uploading the payload data of the first frame to at least one legacy buffer that is in a first portion of the memory that is allocated to a driver configured to interface between the offload unit and an application program when a user buffer in a second portion of the memory that is allocated to the application program is not available.

11. (Currently Amended): The method of claim [[9]]8, further comprising notifying [[an]]the application program to complete processing of the first frame.

12. (Currently Amended): The method of claim [[9]]8, further comprising uploading any subsequent frames received for the connection, to one or more additional legacy buffers, until resynchronization is signaled by the TCP stack.

13. (Original): The method of claim 12, wherein the resynchronization is accomplished by observing ACK numbers generated by the TCP stack.

14. (Original): The method of claim 12, further comprising:

determining an ACK number in a frame transmitted for the connection is more advanced than a sequence number stored in the entry; and

copying the ACK number to the sequence number portion of the entry.

15. (Currently Amended): A method of accessing a delegated connection table during processing of a received frame, comprising:

reading a connection match portion of the delegated connection table;

determining the received frame corresponds to an entry in the connection match portion of the delegated connection table;

reading a connection data portion of the delegated connection table that stores an expected sequence number, an acknowledgment (ACK) number, timestamp data, and a count of unACKnowledged frames in the entry; and

parsing the received frame to produce payload data.

16. (Original): The method of claim 15, further comprising:

modifying a portion of connection state data stored in the connection data portion of the delegated connection table.

17. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 15, further comprising:

reading a connection buffer portion of the delegated connection table to obtain user buffer information including a user buffer address and a corresponding user buffer length of a user buffer that is stored in a portion of memory allocated to an application program.

18. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 17, further comprising:

determining the user buffer information indicates a user buffer is not available; and

requesting a user buffer <u>by setting a request buffer flag in the connection buffer portion</u>

<u>of the delegated connection table</u>.

19. (Original): The method of claim 17, further comprising uploading the payload data to

the user buffer.

20. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 18, further comprising:

determining a receive buffer has reached a high water mark; and

uploading the payload data to a legacy buffer <u>that is in a portion of the memory that is</u>

<u>allocated to a driver configured to interface between the application program and an</u>

<u>offload unit including the delegated connection table</u>.

21. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 18, further comprising:

determining a buffer request timer has expired; and

uploading the payload data to a legacy buffer <u>that is in a portion of the memory that is</u>

<u>allocated to a driver configured to interface between the application program and an</u>

<u>offload unit including the delegated connection table</u>.

22. (Currently Amended): A delegated connection table for storing delegated connection

information, comprising:

a first storage resource configured to store user buffer information <u>for delegated</u>

<u>connections including a user buffer length and a user buffer address corresponding to a</u>

<u>portion of memory that is allocated to an application program</u>; and

a second storage resource configured to store delegated connection state information

<u>for the delegated connections including an expected sequence number, an</u>

<u>acknowledgment (ACK) number, timestamp data, and a count of unACKnowledged</u>

<u>frames</u>.

23. (Currently Amended): The delegated connection table of claim 22, further comprising

a third storage resource configured to store delegated connection identification

information for the delegated connections including a destination IP address, a source

IP address, a source transmission control protocol (TCP) port, and a destination TCP

port.

24. (Original): The delegated connection table of claim 22, further comprising a command

processing unit configured to write to the first storage resource.

25. (Currently Amended): The delegated connection table of claim 22, further comprising

a transmit engine configured to access the second storage resource and perform

outbound frame processing.

26. (Currently Amended): The delegated connection table of claim 22, further comprising

a receive engine configured to access the second storage resource and parse

incoming frames and determine whether or not the incoming frames are valid.

27. (Original): The delegated connection table of claim 26, wherein the receive engine is

configured to read the first storage resource.

28. (Original): The delegated connection table of claim 26, wherein the receive engine is

configured to read the third storage resource.

29. (New): The method of claim 1, wherein the updating of the entry when the first frame

is received for the connection includes clearing an unACKnowledged count, updating

an acknowledgment (ACK) number with a last ACKnowledged number, and updating a

sequence number with an incremental sequence number that is stored in the entry.

30. (New): The method of claim 16, wherein the modifying of the portion of the

connection state data includes clearing an unACKnowledged count, updating the

acknowledgment (ACK) number with a last ACKnowledged number, and updating the

expected sequence number with an incremental sequence number.